UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

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12 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 20 (c) and 43

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

A

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/119 of 18 December 1992, 48/208 of 21 December 1993, 49/140 of 20 December 1994, 50/88 A of 19 December 1995 and 51/195 A of 17 December 1996 concerning emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Concerned about the continuation of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, threatening regional peace and stability, and the significant increase of internally displaced persons and interruptions in the process of repatriating refugees,

Deeply concerned about the massive loss of human life, the aggravated suffering of the most vulnerable groups, the destruction of property and the serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure of Afghanistan caused

by eighteen years of war, and underlining the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and normalcy in Afghanistan and the ability of the country to take effective steps towards a sustainable economic and social development, bearing in mind that the country continues to suffer from an extremely critical economic situation as a landlocked, least-developed and war-stricken country,

Concerned for the well-being of the unarmed civilian population of Afghanistan, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods, owing, inter alia, to the looting of United Nations premises and food supplies and to deliberate restrictions placed on the access of humanitarian organizations to some parts of the country and on other humanitarian operations,

Deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons from returning to their villages and working in their fields, and disturbed by reports of new mines being laid,

Deeply concerned about the continuing discrimination against girls and women and other recurring abuses of human rights in Afghanistan and the inadequacy of measures taken to reverse the situation,

Commending the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan headed by Mr. Norbert Holl to bring about the restoration of peace, normalcy and national reconciliation and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Affirming the urgent need to continue international action to assist Afghanistan in restoring basic services and the infrastructure of the country, and welcoming the efforts of United Nations agencies, programmes and associated bodies and other humanitarian organizations and agencies, including relevant non-governmental organizations, in this respect,

Expressing its appreciation for the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its continuing support for the repatriation of Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries, and reaffirming the principle of non-refoulement as contained in article 33 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[1]

Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular the Governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and recognizing the need for continuing international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation to the States, intergovernmental organizations and associated bodies of the United Nations, as well as to other humanitarian organizations and agencies, including relevant non-governmental organizations, that have responded positively and continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts to draw the

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[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

attention of the international community to the acute problems of reconstruction in Afghanistan and for mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2] and endorses the observations contained therein;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts to develop plans for national reconstruction and rehabilitation, beginning in areas of peace and security;

3. Calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations to coordinate closely their humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, in particular to ensure a consistent approach to human rights;

4. Calls upon the leaders of all Afghan parties to place the highest priority on national reconciliation, acknowledging the war-weariness of the Afghan people and their desire for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic and social development;

5. Demands that all Afghan parties fulfil their obligations and honour their commitments regarding the safety and full freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and other humanitarian personnel, as well as the security of their premises in Afghanistan, and cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other humanitarian organizations and agencies in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan;

6. Urges all parties to prevent the looting of United Nations premises and food supplies, not to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to facilitate the work of organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines, shelter and health care, for which access to those in need is essential;

7. Expresses grave concern at the indiscriminate use of landmines in Afghanistan, which seriously impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

8. Urgently appeals to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, on a priority basis and as far as conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the restoration of basic services and the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons with dignity and honour, and appeals to the international financial and development institutions to assist in the planning of the reconstruction of Afghanistan;

9. Calls upon the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for

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[2] A/52/536.

Afghanistan to be launched by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1998, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

10. Denounces the continuing discrimination against girls and women and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, notes with deep concern their adverse effects on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan, and calls upon all Afghan parties to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, in particular of women and girls, in accordance with all human rights instruments and standards, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[1]

11. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system to cooperate fully in the implementation of policies and measures recommended by the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, as mentioned in paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

B

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/140 of 20 December 1994, 50/88 B of 19 December 1995 and 51/195 B of 17 December 1996,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1076 (1996) of 22 October 1996 and all statements of the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan,

Noting all recent declarations by participants of regional international meetings and by international organizations on the situation in Afghanistan,

Strongly committed to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Convinced that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict,

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[1] Resolution 34/180.

Expressing deep concern at the lack of progress in reaching a negotiated settlement of the conflict,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, which has led to the loss of many lives and the sometimes forcible displacement of civilian populations and which seriously endangers the stability and peaceful development of the region,

Deeply concerned over the flagrant violations of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions and international human rights instruments and principles relating to the conduct of war by the Afghan parties,

Stressing the need to prevent further civilian casualties,

Welcoming recent exchanges of prisoners between the Afghan parties,

Deeply concerned about the continuing discrimination against girls and women and other recurring abuses of human rights in Afghanistan and the inadequacy of measures taken to reverse the situation, and emphasizing the importance of democracy, equality and of the realization of human rights in any future political process in Afghanistan,

Convinced that the United Nations, as a universally recognized intermediary, must continue to play a central and impartial role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made in this regard by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan headed by Mr. Norbert Holl, and by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi,

Expressing its appreciation for the engagement, in support of and coordination with the United Nations, of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Afghanistan,

Stressing the importance of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and deeply concerned at all forms of continued support which have caused or may cause the prolongation of the conflict, inter alia, the supply of weapons, military equipment and ammunition to the Afghan parties,

Expressing its grave concern about actions undermining the security of State frontiers, including the growing illicit traffic in arms by criminal elements and groups from certain areas of Afghanistan and about the use of Afghan territory for the training and harbouring of terrorists, which create a threat to peace and stability in the entire region, including Afghanistan,

Deeply concerned also at the continued growth in production and trafficking of illicit drugs from Afghanistan, which threatens regional stability and damages the health and well-being of the populations of neighbouring States and elsewhere,

Bearing in mind that Afghanistan, as a State party to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage[1] of 16 November 1972, has recognized its primary duty to ensure, inter alia, the protection of the cultural heritage situated on its territory,

Stressing that a cessation of armed hostilities between the warring parties in Afghanistan and political stability are indispensable if reconstruction measures are to have a lasting effect,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2] and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. Stresses that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lies with the Afghan parties, and urges all of them to respond to the repeated United Nations calls for peace;

3. Calls upon all Afghan parties to cease immediately all armed hostilities, to renounce the use of force and to engage, without preconditions, in a political dialogue aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict;

4. Calls upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan and strictly to refrain from any outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan;

5. Condemns that foreign military support to the Afghan parties continued unabated through 1997, and calls upon all States concerned immediately to end the supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, including the presence and involvement of foreign military personnel;

6. Encourages the Secretary-General to pursue the question of preliminary studies on the imposition of an effective arms embargo and how such an embargo could be implemented in a fair and verifiable manner;

7. Supports the call by the Secretary-General for the establishment of a solid international framework in order to address the external aspects of the Afghan question, and calls upon all interested States and international organizations to use any influence they have in a constructive manner, in support of and close coordination with the United Nations, to promote peace in Afghanistan;

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[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

[2] A/52/682-S/1997/894.

8. Supports the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts, undertaken in cooperation with the Afghan parties and with interested States and international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to promote the political process aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict, with the participation of all Afghan parties and all segments of Afghan society, and reaffirms its full support for the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan in this regard;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under resolution 48/208, to continue its efforts to facilitate national reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan, specifically to bring about an immediate and durable ceasefire among the Afghan parties and to institute a negotiating process leading to the formation of a fully representative, broad-based transitional government of national unity;

10. Calls upon all Afghan parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations Special Mission, and demands that all Afghan parties fulfil their obligations and honour their commitments regarding the safety and full freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, in particular the personnel of the United Nations Special Mission, as well as the security of their premises in Afghanistan;

11. Welcomes recent exchanges of prisoners between the Afghan parties, and urges them to take further confidence-building measures;

12. Deplores the civilian casualties inflicted by the indiscriminate use of landmines, and calls upon all Afghan parties to desist from such use;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to investigate fully reports about mass killings of prisoners of war and civilians and incidents of rape in Afghanistan and to include his findings in his next report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph 19 of the present resolution;

14. Denounces the continuing discrimination against girls and women and other violations of human rights in Afghanistan, and calls upon all Afghan parties to respect the human rights of every individual, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion;

15. Denounces also violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, and urgently calls upon all parties strictly to respect all its provisions;

16. Calls upon all Afghan parties to take appropriate steps to prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism directed against cultural property of the Afghan nation and humankind;

17. Reiterates that the continuation of the conflict in Afghanistan provides a fertile ground for terrorism and drug-trafficking which destabilize the region and beyond, and calls upon the leaders of the Afghan parties to halt such activities;

18. Commends the efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and takes note of communications received by UNDCP with regard to the banning of the cultivation, use of and trade in opium in Afghanistan, and calls for full compliance with these commitments;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months during its fifty-second session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

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Agenda items 20 (c) and 43

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

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Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Malta, Morocco, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine

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15 December 1997

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 41

ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994, 50/82 of 14 December 1995, and 51/149 of 13 December 1996 on assistance in mine clearance, all adopted without a vote,

Considering demining to be an important component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian problem caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded devices that have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-infested countries and constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, to humanitarian aid operations and to reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions,

Reiterating its dismay at the high number of victims of mines, especially among civilian populations, particularly children, and recalling in this context Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1995/79 of 8 March 1995,[1] 1996/85 of

[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

24 April 1996[2] and 1997/78 of 18 April 1997[3] on the rights of the child and resolution 1996/27 of 19 April 1996[2] and decision 1997/107 of 11 April 1997[3] on the human rights of persons with disability,

Deeply alarmed that the number of mines being laid each year, as well as the presence of a large number of mines and other unexploded devices as a result of armed conflicts, exponentially outweighs the number of such mines that can be cleared during that time, and thus convinced of the necessity and urgency of a significant increase in mine-clearance efforts by the international community,

Noting the decisions taken at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[4] particularly with respect to Protocol II of the Convention and the inclusion in the Amended Protocol[5] of a number of provisions of importance for mine-clearance operations, notably the requirement of detectability,

Recalling that the States Parties to the Review Conference declared their commitment to keep the provisions of Protocol II under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all the problems of landmines,

Recalling also the adoption at the Ottawa International Strategy Conference, "Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines", on 5 October 1996, of the Ottawa Declaration[6] whereby participants undertook a commitment towards the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel mines and which, among other things, recognizes that the international community must provide significantly greater resources to mine-awareness programmes, mine-clearance operations and victim assistance, as well as the Brussels Declaration of 27 June 1997,

Noting the adoption on 18 September 1997 at the Oslo Conference of a Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which, among other things, recognizes that States parties in a position to do so should provide assistance for mine-clearance and related activities, for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims and for mine-awareness

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[2] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/23).

[3] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23).

[4] CCW/CONF.1/16 (Part I).

[5] Ibid., annex B.

[6] A/C.1/51/10, annex I.

programmes, and noting that the Convention was opened for signature in Ottawa, Canada, on 3 December 1997 and that the Convention has been signed by 122 States,

Encouraged by the recent initiatives taken at conferences in Elsinore, Bonn and Tokyo, notably in relation to international standards and procedures for humanitarian mine-clearance operations, as well as the development of new technology for landmine detection and removal and the rehabilitation of landmine victims, which can serve as a basis on which to advance the safety, effectiveness and professionalism of these operations throughout the world,

Taking note of the Plan of Action on Landmines adopted at the First Continental Conference of African Experts and Landmines, held at Kempton Park, South Africa, and the adoption at Harare by the heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity of a resolution on the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the issue of anti-personnel mines and international efforts to reach a total ban,

Emphasizing the importance of recording the location of mines, of retaining all such records and making them available to concerned parties upon cessation of hostilities, and welcoming the strengthening of the relevant provisions in international law,

Stressing the need to convince mine-affected States to halt new deployments of anti-personnel mines to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of mine-clearance operations,

Recognizing the important role that the international community, particularly States involved in the deployment of mines, can play in assisting mine clearance in affected countries through the provision of necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective existing minefields, mines and booby-traps,

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and other unexploded devices pose to the safety, health and lives of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations,

Aware that the rate of mine clearance needs to accelerate substantially if the global landmine problem is to be tackled effectively,

Concerned about the limited availability of safe and cost-effective mine-detection and mine-clearance equipment as well as the lack of global coordination in research and development to improve the relevant technology, and conscious of the need to promote progress in this field and to foster international technical cooperation to this end,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has an important role in the field of assistance in mine clearance,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandates of several peacekeeping operations of provisions relating to mine-clearance work carried

out under the direction of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in the context of such operations,

Commending the activities already undertaken by the United Nations system, donor and recipient Governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts and seek solutions to the problems related to the presence of mines and other unexploded devices, as well as their assistance to victims of landmines,

Also commending the role of the Secretary-General in increasing public awareness of the problem of landmines, and in the establishment of the central landmine database and inventories of mine-awareness materials and mine-clearance techniques,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations in assistance in mine clearance;[7]

2. Welcomes, in particular, the efforts made by the United Nations to foster the establishment of mine-clearance capacities in countries where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population, and emphasizing the importance of developing national mine-clearance capacities, urges all Member States, particularly those that have a capacity to do so, to assist afflicted countries in the establishment and development of their national mine-clearance capacities;

3. Invites Member States to develop national programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system where appropriate, to promote awareness of landmines, especially among children;

4. Expresses its appreciation to Governments and regional organizations for their financial contributions to the Trust Fund and other demining programmes, and appeals to them to continue this support through further contributions;

5. Encourages all relevant multilateral and national programmes and bodies to include, in coordination with the United Nations, activities related to mine clearance in their humanitarian, social and economic assistance activities;

6. Stresses the importance of international assistance for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration of mine victims;

7. Emphasizes again, in this connection, the important role of the United Nations in the effective coordination of activities related to mine clearance, awareness and assistance, including those by regional organizations, in particular activities related to standards, technological development, information and training, and, in this regard, encourages the Secretary-General to further develop a comprehensive mine-clearance strategy, taking into consideration the impact of the landmine problem on the process of

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[7] A/52/679.

rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of assistance in mine clearance by the United Nations;

8. Urges Member States, regional organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General and, in particular, to provide him with information and data as well as other appropriate resources that could be useful in strengthening the coordination role of the United Nations in the field of mine awareness, training, surveying, mine detection and clearance, scientific research on mine-detection and clearance technology, and information on and distribution of medical equipment and supplies;

9. Takes note of the convening of the Mine Action Forum in Ottawa, Canada, from 2 to 4 December 1997, and of the development there of An Agenda for Mine Action, and welcomes the proposals related to enhancing and coordinating action by international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations on mine-awareness, mine clearance and assistance to victims of anti-personnel mines, among other issues;

10. Calls upon Member States, especially those that have a capacity to do so, to provide the necessary information and technical and material assistance, as appropriate, and to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby-traps and other devices in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

11. Urges Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have the ability to do so, to provide, as appropriate, technological assistance to mine-inflicted countries and to promote scientific research and development on humanitarian mine-clearance techniques and technology so that mine-clearance activities may be carried out more effectively at lower costs and through safer means and to promote international collaboration in this regard;

12. Encourages Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to support ongoing activities to promote appropriate technology, as well as international operational and safety standards for humanitarian mine-clearance activities, including the early follow-up of the International Conference on Mine Clearance Technology;[8]

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the progress achieved on all relevant issues outlined in his previous reports to the Assembly on assistance in mine clearance and in the present resolution and on the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and other demining programmes;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Assistance in mine clearance".

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[8] See A/51/472, annex.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 41

ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Angola, Armenia, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, South Africa, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay

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17 December 1997

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 96 (b)

SECTORAL POLICY QUESTIONS: BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Venezuela: draft resolution

Business and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/171 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development", 48/180 of 21 December 1993 entitled "Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development" and 50/106 of 20 December 1995 entitled "Business and development", and the Agenda for Development,[1]

Welcoming the fact that many countries continue to attach major importance to the privatization of enterprises, demonopolization and administrative deregulation in the context of their economic restructuring policies, as a means to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of the market and the private sector for the efficient functioning of economies in various stages of development,

Recognizing the sovereign right of each State to decide on the development of its private and public sectors, taking into account the comparative advantages of each sector, bearing in mind the economic, social and cultural diversity in the world,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development";[2]

2. Underlines the positive role of the private sector in supporting economic growth and development as well as in the mobilization of resources;

3. Emphasizes the role of the private sector in each country including international investors, to contribute positively to the implementation of national macroeconomic policies and macroeconomic stabilization programmes;

4. Recognizes that business and industry, including transnational corporations, play a crucial role in the social and economic development of a country; a stable policy regime enables and encourages business and industry to operate responsibly and efficiently and to implement longer-term policies; increasing prosperity, a major goal of the development process, is contributed primarily by the activities of business and industry;

5. Convinced that a stable and transparent environment for commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important resources across national borders, in order to promote growth and development, and recognizes in this context that effective efforts at all levels to combat corruption and bribery are essential elements of an improved international business environment;

6. Recognizes the important role of Governments in creating, through transparent and participatory processes, an enabling environment supportive of entrepreneurship and facilitative of privatization, in particular in establishing the judicial, executive and legislative frameworks necessary for a market-based exchange of goods and services and for good management;

7. Emphasizes the importance of a supportive international economic environment, including investment and trade, for the promotion of entrepreneurship and privatization;

8. Recognizes the need to increase private sector involvement in the provisions of infrastructure services, inter alia, through joint ventures between public and private entities, particularly in countries with economies in transition, while protecting essential services and safeguarding the environment;

9. Recognizes that in many countries the informal sector accounts for a significant part of all economic activity and is a particularly important source of income for women and that the progressive integration of the informal sector should be encouraged;

10. Stresses the importance of micro-credit to people living in poverty, allowing them to undertake the establishment of micro-enterprises, which in turn generate self-employment and contribute to the achieving of empowerment,

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[2] A/52/428.

particularly of women, and calls for the strengthening of institutions supportive of micro-financing, in particular, micro-credit;

11. Values the promotion of entrepreneurship, including through the informal sector and micro-enterprises, in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries by various actors throughout civil society, and of privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures;

12. Recognizes the important role of cooperatives in the development and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises;

13. Encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to provide a forum for intergovernmental discussions, with the participation of representatives from the private sector, concerning issues related to privatization, enterprise development and international flows of investment and welcomes the efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to build a lasting partnership for development with non-governmental actors, including through the "Partners for Development" initiative to be held at Lyon, France, in 1998;

14. Invites the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the other relevant United Nations organs to further strengthen their activities, in particular for Africa and the least developed countries, in the promotion of entrepreneurship development, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, and calls upon the international community to lend its support to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard;

15. Stresses that the outsourcing of work from the transnational corporations to the small and medium-sized enterprises is supportive to the development of entrepreneurship and privatization in developing countries;

16. Calls upon the United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to strengthen support to the promotion of entrepreneurship and, in their work in implementing the present resolution, to give due consideration to the role of the private sector in development, taking into account the priorities set by each country, while ensuring a gender perspective, and, in this connection, states that there is a need to assist in particular the Governments of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in strengthening their capacity to encourage wider participation of the private sector;

17. Decides to include this issue in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, to prepare a report which includes analytical work on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the General Assembly at that session.

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17 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 60

STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Canada: draft decision

Non-governmental organizations

The General Assembly, recalling the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Article 71 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and decision 1996/297 of 25 July 1996, as well as the interpretative statement read by the Council President upon adoption of the latter decision, requests the Secretary-General to prepare and circulate no later than the end of its current session, for consideration and action by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, a report on:

(a) Existing arrangements and practices for the interaction of non-governmental organizations in all activities of the United Nations system;

(b) The legal and financial implications of modifications in the current arrangements for participation of non-governmental organizations with a view to enhancing their participation in all areas of the United Nations system;

(c) The question of the participation of non-governmental organizations from all regions, particularly from the developing countries.

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UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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17 December 1997

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 157

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Draft resolution submitted by the President

Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform

The General Assembly,

Having considered further the report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform,[1] and the recommendations contained therein,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 of 12 November 1997,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 51/240 of 20 June 1997 and 51/241 of 31 July 1997, as well as all other relevant resolutions and decisions, which contain legislative mandates and programme guidance, and, in particular, the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,

Reaffirming that financial implications of any reform measure or proposal on which the General Assembly is to take action should be considered in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

A. Deputy Secretary-General

1. Decides to establish the post of Deputy Secretary-General as an integral part of the Office of the Secretary-General, as set out in addendum 1 to the report of the Secretary-General[2] and in the statement made by the

[1] A/51/950 and Add.1-7.

[2] A/51/950/Add.1.

Secretary-General on 4 November 1997 to the open-ended informal consultations of the General Assembly on United Nations reform: measures and proposals,[3] without prejudice to the mandate of the Secretary-General as provided by the Charter of the United Nations, and in accordance with the existing system of decision-making, with responsibilities delegated by the Secretary-General, including the following:

(a) To assist the Secretary-General in managing the operations of the Secretariat;

(b) To act for the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters in the absence of the Secretary-General and in other cases as may be decided by the Secretary-General;

(c) To support the Secretary-General in ensuring intersectoral and inter-institutional coherence of activities and programmes and to support the Secretary-General in elevating the profile and leadership of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres, including further efforts to strengthen the United Nations as a leading centre for development policy and development assistance;

(d) To represent the Secretary-General at conferences, official functions and ceremonial and other occasions as may be decided by the Secretary-General;

(e) To undertake such assignments as may be determined by the Secretary-General;

2. Notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States and in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the term of office of the Deputy Secretary-General will not exceed that of the Secretary-General;

B. New approaches to policy formulation

3. Welcomes the recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at the rationalization, streamlining and enhancement of the work of the General Assembly, taking into account the measures already undertaken towards this end in order to further strengthen the Assembly as the organ of the United Nations that most fully embodies the universal and democratic character of the Organization;

4. Decides, in this context, to continue during its fifty-second session its in-depth consideration of those recommendations under the item entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", taking into account the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 51/241;

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[3] See A/52/585.

C. Peace, security and disarmament

5. Invites Member States to improve the supply of information to the Secretary-General that could assist the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security, including conflict prevention, in full accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Stresses that enhancing the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations can play a valuable role in the effectiveness of its response to a conflict, and, in this context, requests the appropriate organs to consider, as a matter of priority, specific measures to that effect, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/69 of 10 December 1997 and taking into account the proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General and the views of Member States;

7. Endorses the recommendation that the Security Council, in establishing a peacekeeping operation in the future, should prescribe a time-frame for the conclusion of the status-of-forces agreement between the United Nations and the host Government for the operation in question and that, pending the conclusion of such an agreement, a model status-of-forces agreement would apply provisionally unless otherwise indicated, and invites the Security Council to consider the matter;

8. Decides that the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee of the General Assembly should undertake a review of their work, to be concluded before the end of the fifty-second session, with a view to its revitalization, rationalization and streamlining, taking into account discussions that have already taken place on this issue;

D. Economic and social affairs

9. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its organizational and substantive sessions in 1998, as part of the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227, the recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to the reform of its subsidiary bodies, including a time-frame for implementation of its decisions thereon, as well as his recommendations relating to the organization and methods of work of the Council, and to report thereon to the Assembly as early as possible during its fifty-second session;

10. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States and appropriate intergovernmental regional bodies, to conduct a general review of the regional commissions at its substantive session of 1998, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 50/227 and the individual reviews each commission has already carried out, in order to consider the competencies of the regional commissions, taking into account the competencies of global bodies and other regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly before the end of its fifty-second session;

11. Endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General to discontinue the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development;

E. Development cooperation

12. Accepts that management of funds and programmes would be enhanced by greater integration of intergovernmental oversight, and requests the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the next triennial policy review of the United Nations, during its operational activities segment of 1998, to consider arrangements for closer integration of the governance oversight of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, with consecutive and/or joint meetings of the existing Executive Boards, bearing in mind the respective mandates of the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes;

13. Takes note, in this context, of the decision already taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund to organize a joint meeting in January 1998;

14. Recognizes the urgent need for resources for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, taking fully into account the principle of neutrality, and requests the Secretary-General to submit, by the end of March 1998, for consideration by the General Assembly, specific proposals for the establishment of a new system of core resources, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

G. Humanitarian affairs

15. Decides to designate the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, who will, inter alia, retain responsibility for coordination of natural disaster relief;

16. Decides also to transfer to the United Nations Development Programme the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, with the understanding that the resources for this task will be separate and additional to the resources of the United Nations Development Programme for development activities and that they will be provided by a grant from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, before the end of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, a report on the method of financing of natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness activities beyond the biennium 1998-1999;

18. Decides to establish a humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, with effect from 1998, and, in this connection, requests the Council to consider expeditiously the related practical arrangements and make an

early recommendation to the General Assembly, without prejudice to the work of the other segments of the Council;

H. Financing the Organization

19. Reaffirms the obligation of all Member States, in accordance with the Charter, to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions;

20. Takes note of the recommendation by the Secretary-General that a Revolving Credit Fund be established through voluntary contributions or any other means of financing that Member States may wish to suggest, and requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed by Member States, to submit by the end of March 1998, detailed proposals to the General Assembly, through the competent bodies, for the proposed establishment of such a Fund, including its financing, management and operation, while emphasizing that the priority lies in the compliance by all Member States with their financial obligations to the United Nations;

21. Takes notes also of the recommendation by the Secretary-General that, in future, any unspent balances under the regular budget at the end of the fiscal period be retained, and invites the competent bodies to consider the implications of such retention, as well as the appropriate use of such balances, including possible allocation to development programmes, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, before the end of its fifty-second session;

I. Management

22. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Secretary-General on initiating a review of the International Civil Service Commission, and, on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretary-General, requests the competent intergovernmental bodies to consider the modalities for such a review and to report to it before the end of its fifty-second session;

23. Notes that the Secretary-General has submitted the draft code of conduct to the General Assembly, and agrees to expedite its consideration;

24. Decides to establish, in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, a development account to be funded from savings from possible reductions in administration and other overhead costs, without affecting full implementation of mandated programmes and activities, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report by the end of March 1998 identifying the sustainability of this initiative, as well as the modalities of implementation, the specific purposes and associated performance criteria for the use of such resources;

25. Takes note of the recommendation by the Secretary-General to shift United Nations programme budgeting towards a system of results-based budgeting, and requests the Secretary-General to submit, through the competent bodies, a

more detailed report that will include a full explanation for the proposed change, and the methodology to be used, as well as a mock-up of one or more sections of the budget for consideration before the end of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly;

J. Longer-term changes

26. Recognizes that reform of the United Nations will be an ongoing process and that there is a need for the United Nations to consider changes of a more fundamental nature and other broader issues, and invites the Secretary-General to elaborate further his proposals, taking into account the views of Governments, and to present them to the General Assembly by the end of March 1998 on:

(a) A new concept of trusteeship;

(b) A Millennium Assembly;

(c) A Millennium Forum;

(d) The United Nations system (a Special Commission at the ministerial level to examine the need for possible amendments to the Charter of the United Nations and the treaties from which the specialized agencies derive their mandates;

(e) Provisions whereby initiatives that involve new mandates and institutional machinery would be subject to specific time limits that would require explicit review and renewal by the General Assembly (sunset provisions);

27. Looks forward to the convening of the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries to finalize and adopt a convention to establish an international criminal court as a step that would strengthen significantly the rule of law in the century ahead;

28. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals".

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18 December 1997

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 157

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Revised draft resolution submitted by the President

Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform

The General Assembly,

Having considered further the report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform,[1] and the recommendations contained therein,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 of 12 November 1997,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 51/240 of 20 June 1997 and 51/241 of 31 July 1997, as well as all other relevant resolutions and decisions, which contain legislative mandates and programme guidance, and, in particular, the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,

Reaffirming that financial implications of any reform measure or proposal on which the General Assembly is to take action should be considered in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

A. Deputy Secretary-General

1. Decides to establish the post of Deputy Secretary-General as an integral part of the Office of the Secretary-General, as set out in addendum 1 to the report of the Secretary-General[2] and in the statement made by the Secretary-General on 4 November 1997 to the open-ended informal consultations of

[1] A/51/950 and Add.1-7.

[2] A/51/950/Add.1.

the General Assembly on United Nations reform: measures and proposals,[3] without prejudice to the mandate of the Secretary-General as provided by the Charter of the United Nations, and in accordance with the existing system of decision-making, with responsibilities delegated by the Secretary-General, including the following:

(a) To assist the Secretary-General in managing the operations of the Secretariat;

(b) To act for the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters in the absence of the Secretary-General and in other cases as may be decided by the Secretary-General;

(c) To support the Secretary-General in ensuring intersectoral and inter-institutional coherence of activities and programmes and to support the Secretary-General in elevating the profile and leadership of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres, including further efforts to strengthen the United Nations as a leading centre for development policy and development assistance;

(d) To represent the Secretary-General at conferences, official functions and ceremonial and other occasions as may be decided by the Secretary-General;

(e) To undertake such assignments as may be determined by the Secretary-General;

2. Notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States and in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the term of office of the Deputy Secretary-General will not exceed that of the Secretary-General;

B. New approaches to policy formulation

3. Welcomes the recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at the rationalization, streamlining and enhancement of the work of the General Assembly, taking into account the measures already undertaken towards this end in order to further strengthen the Assembly as the organ of the United Nations that most fully embodies the universal and democratic character of the Organization;

4. Decides, in this context, to continue during its fifty-second session its in-depth consideration of those recommendations under the item entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", taking into account the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 51/241;

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[3] See A/52/585.

C. Peace, security and disarmament

5. Invites Member States to improve the supply of information to the Secretary-General that could assist the Organization to prevent conflict and maintain international peace and security in full accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Stresses that enhancing the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations can play a valuable role in the effectiveness of its response to a conflict, and, in this context, requests the appropriate organs to consider, as a matter of priority, specific measures to that effect, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/69 of 10 December 1997 and taking into account the proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General and the views of Member States;

7. Endorses the recommendation that the Security Council, in establishing a peacekeeping operation in the future, should prescribe a time-frame for the conclusion of the status-of-forces agreement between the United Nations and the host Government for the operation in question and that, pending the conclusion of such an agreement, a model status-of-forces agreement would apply provisionally unless otherwise agreed by the parties concerned, and invites the Security Council to consider the matter;

8. Decides that the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee of the General Assembly should undertake a review of their work, to be concluded before the end of the fifty-second session, with a view to its revitalization, rationalization and streamlining, taking into account discussions that have already taken place on this issue;

D. Economic and social affairs

9. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its organizational and substantive sessions in 1998, as part of the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227, the recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to the reform of its subsidiary bodies, including a time-frame for implementation of its decisions thereon, as well as his recommendations relating to the organization and methods of work of the Council, and to report thereon to the Assembly as early as possible during its fifty-second session;

10. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States and appropriate intergovernmental regional bodies, to conduct a general review of the regional commissions at its substantive session of 1998, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 50/227 and the individual reviews each commission has already carried out, in order to consider the competencies of the regional commissions, taking into account the competencies of global bodies and other regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly before the end of its fifty-second session;

11. Endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General to discontinue the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development;

E. Development cooperation

12. Accepts that management of funds and programmes would be enhanced by greater integration of intergovernmental oversight, and requests the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the next triennial policy review of the United Nations, during its operational activities segment of 1998, to consider arrangements for closer integration of the governance oversight of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, with consecutive and/or joint meetings of the existing Executive Boards, bearing in mind the respective mandates of the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes;

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I. Management

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(b) A Millennium Assembly;

(c) A Millennium Forum;

(d) The United Nations system (a Special Commission at the ministerial level to examine the need for possible amendments to the Charter of the United Nations and the treaties from which the specialized agencies derive their mandates);

(e) Provisions whereby initiatives that involve new mandates and institutional machinery would be subject to specific time limits that would require explicit review and renewal by the General Assembly (sunset provisions);

27. Looks forward to the convening of the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries to finalize and adopt a convention to establish an international criminal court as a step that would strengthen significantly the rule of law in the century ahead;

28. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals".